

**MINUTES OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING HELD  
ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2017 AT 6:00 P.M. IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**MAYOR:** Tonita Gurulé-Girón

**COUNCILORS:** Vincent Howell  
David L. Romero  
Barbara A. Casey  
David A. Ulibarri, Jr.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Richard Trujillo, City Manager  
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk  
Corinna Laszlo-Henry, City Attorney  
Juan Montano, Sergeant at Arms

**CALL TO ORDER**

**ROLL CALL**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**

Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked Councilor Howell to lead in the moment of silence.

Councilor Howell thanked God for the beautiful spring days he had given for all to enjoy which he thought contributed in having clear minds in order for the Governing Body to make good decisions and appreciated everyone who attends the Council meetings with concerns and added that they are passionate about helping the community.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

City Manager Trujillo made the recommendation to move Business Item #1 from the Business Items to Agenda Item VII (following the Approval of Minutes) and explained that Attorney Danelle Smith would be addressing any questions regarding the City Attorney's contract as she needed to leave at 6:30 p.m.

Councilor Howell made a motion to approve the agenda with the recommended change. Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Gurule-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes
Vincent Howell	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of March 8<sup>th</sup>, March 15<sup>th</sup>, March 24<sup>th</sup> and March 27<sup>th</sup> thru March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Vincent Howell	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

### **BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. Approval/Disapproval of City Attorney's Professional Service Contract.

Mayor Tonita Gurulé-Girón advised that in accordance with the City of Las Vegas, New Mexico Municipal Charter Article V, Section 5.04 C., a city attorney was appointed by the Mayor and approved by Council on March 24, 2017 at a Special meeting. The Governing Body shall enter into a contract with the city attorney which shall establish, among other matters, compensation, benefits, duties and responsibilities.

Attorney Danelle Smith advised that changes had been made regarding the City Attorney's contract and that the main change was the process for people other than the Mayor or City Manager obtaining the agreement for the City Attorney to do work for particular Councilors and read from the City Attorney's contract, under #2 *Duties and Authority, paragraph 3: "If City Council members seek to obtain counsel or a legal opinion as to matters of City business, they shall first either have the approval of the City Manager or Mayor, or a consensus of the Governing Body for the City Attorney to undertake the requested work.*

Ms. Smith explained that the idea was to have a situation where it is clear to the City Attorney on what the ground rules are such as a Councilor going to the City Attorney and asking him/her to take on a project; she stated that the need is to have consistent direction to the City Attorney. Ms. Smith stated that she understood the issue of independent City Councilors not having to go to the Mayor or City Manager before going to the City Attorney and advised that if there is a consensus among the City Councilors regarding the City Attorney taking on a project, then that can be the process.

Ms. Smith advised that the rest of the contract was the same except for added clauses that the Attorney General's Office required from Governmental Agencies.

Councilor Casey stated that she was a duly elected Councilor and took offense and exception to have to request permission from the Mayor, who was not her boss or employer in order to speak to the City's Legal Counsel and didn't think she had to take direction from the City Manager either, and therefore would not support the contract as long as that language was in it.

Ms. Smith spoke to Councilor Casey's concerns, explaining that this was one of the reasons why the changes were made, addressing the concerns of not having to go through Mayor and City Manager which would consist of having a consensus with City Council.

Discussion took place regarding the language in the City Attorney's contract and clarification of options of the process of seeking the City's Legal Counsel by City Councilors.

Councilor Howell made a motion to approve City Attorney’s Professional Service Contract with the amendment of paragraph 3 under #2 Duties and Authority on the City Attorney’s contract, to read: *“If City Council members seek to obtain counsel or a legal opinion as to matters of City business, they shall have the approval of the Governing Body through consensus for the City Attorney to undertake the requested work at a regular meeting of the City Council.”* Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David L. Romero	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	Vincent Howell	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

**MAYOR’S APPOINTMENTS/REPORTS**

Mayor Gurulé-Girón reported on the following:

Newly Appointed Board Members

Charter Commission Board: Carla Benavidez, Charlie Sandoval, Harold Garcia, Jose Gallegos, Kim Delgado, Mack Crow and Mike Sweeney  
 Campaign Ethics Board: Diane Ortiz, Joselle De Marco, Kim Delgado, Mack Crow, Roy Montibon and Theresa Bustos.

Replaced Board Members

Fiesta Committee: Siobhan Sweeney, Design Review Board: Jose Gallegos, Planning and Zoning Commission Board: Dianne Lindsay, Utility Committee: Meredith Britt and Mike Martinez, Senior Advisory Committee: Joe Horace Lucero

Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for consensus from the Council and informed that consensus was received from the majority of the Council.

**MAYOR’S RECOGNITIONS/PROCLAMATIONS**

Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised that recognition would take place of the West Las Vegas Cheerleading Squad.

City Clerk Fresquez read the recognition to acknowledge and congratulate the members of West Las Vegas Cheer Squad on behalf of Mayor Gurulé-Girón and the members of the Governing body on their 2016-2017 Class 1A-4A Co-Ed State Championship and admiration with which the outstanding students are regarded in the City of Las Vegas:

Mayor Gurulé-Girón expressed her thanks along with the Governing Body to the students, coaches and parents for their outstanding job in achieving the championship and for all their hard work and dedication.

### **PUBLIC INPUT**

Martha Lopez, a bookkeeper for the Samaritan House for the last 10 years, spoke of her concerns regarding the closing of the Samaritan House which provided the basic needs of food, clothing and shelter to the less fortunate for 15 years and was disappointed to hear that they were asked to leave due to an error made by Las Vegas Housing Authority allowing them to operate at a location that did not belong to the City of Las Vegas, unbeknown to them. Ms. Lopez pleaded for help from the Governing Body to do something to help in providing a home for the continuance to assist our community and whole heartedly thanked them for the support they were currently giving.

Corey Deshamais, the current Americore Vista Volunteer with the Samaritan House Food Pantry informed of the many food bags distributed to the Las Vegas community which ranged from 250 to 500 food bags monthly and advised that his concern was the uncertainty of the next contribution dated for May 10, 2017 as they had been asked to vacate by May 7th. Mr. Deshamais advised that currently it was not known where it would take place or how to notify 700 households of what can be expected from the Samaritan House or where distribution would take place.

Cecilia Montano, a Samaritan House volunteer spoke of her contributions in helping the members of the community and voiced her concerns regarding the

closing of the non-profit organization that helps the community and asked the Governing Body for their help.

Yvonne Castellano, a Supportive Housing Assistant with the Samaritan House informed of the services they have provided for the homeless in the community with rental assistance and permanent housing support programs. Ms. Castellano stated that they have assisted the city in reducing hospital and jail costs by housing these individuals with the result of independent, self sufficient and responsible community members.

Diego Romero, a client from the Samaritan House spoke of the help that he had received from them, he advised that he had been less fortunate for several years although had found help with food, shelter and to become a better person and citizen in the community from the assistance of the Samaritan House and asked the Governing Body to please help the Samaritan house, which was a blessing and a life saving organization.

Patrick Alire who had been homeless spoke of the help he had recently received from the Samaritan House which had helped him tremendously and was now on their Board of Directors and asked for the help of the Governing Body. Mr. Alire spoke of how important their services were and how his life had thrived in serving his community and church. Mr. Alire invited everyone to the upcoming National Day of Prayer at Plaza Park on May 4, 2017 @ 12:00 p.m. and informed of an upcoming event regarding Nation Strategy, regarding education on Community, Government, Business, Media, and Education that would benefit our community and would be held on Friday, April 28, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Memorial Middle School Auditorium. Mr. Alire stated that his passion was to help the homeless and the needy and thanked the Governing Body.

Eric Weisgurber, a recipient of the Samaritan House spoke of the Good Samaritan story in the Bible being his favorite as a child, and spoke of the importance of reaching out, above and beyond in helping those in need. Mr. Weisgurber stated how important it was to have a place to be involved and how it shows the heartbeat of the City and spoke of the assistance that he and his wife had received from the Samaritan House and appreciated their help and now both assist the less fortunate at the Samaritan House.

George Lyon, Executive Director of the Samaritan House spoke of issues related to public housing and advised they were suddenly asked to vacate the property they had been in for 15 years and that the issue was to quickly find a place to support the thousands of people they have helped for years. Mr. Lyons stated that promises and agreements of service to the Samaritan House made by the City had been broken and spoke of many services the Samaritan House had provided and asked for the help from the City regarding finding a building to support the needs of the community and asked for the promise of the City that they may stay in that building.

Louie Trujillo stated “that a lot can be said about a community by how their leaders handle problems” and advised that taking care of homeless and hungry community members were the City’s problem and that the Samaritan House was assisting them with that problem. Mr. Trujillo added that there were many people that were dependent on the operation of the Samaritan House and spoke of these people being our neighbors, people we know and people who voted for the Governing Body. Mr. Trujillo stated that he was not there to speak against the Governing Body but to thank them for their support of the Samaritan House throughout the years and was asking for the Governing Body, as City leaders to please sit with members of the Samaritan House in order to find a solution and take charge of the situation of finding a place in order to help feed and house many people in need.

Katie McDonough expressed how the situation regarding the Samaritan House was the worst emergency they had ever endured and spoke of how the community supports the non-profit organization. Ms. McDonough spoke of how this would take away from volunteers who were proud of what they were doing to help people in need and was alarmed on how sudden this was. Ms. McDonough stated that the Samaritan House, a homeless organization was now homeless.

Pamela G. Daves, advised that she was addressing the Governing Body as the Housing Board in helping the Samaritan House and advised that she thought it was not legal to give the Samaritan House only 20 days to vacate the property. Ms. Daves hoped that the Governing Body would take corrective action and appeal to them to come up with a plan and asked them to help the Samaritan House.

Paul Salas and Peter Garduno presented a painting of Miguel Encinias, a prominent member of the community. Mr. Salas advised that Mr. Encinias serviced his community and his country and added that he excelled in being a distinguished pilot and was one in five Americans to serve in three wars. Mr. Salas informed that Mr. Encinias continued his education for many years, was an author of three books, and was awarded many medals for his achievements and advised that they were proud to have been able to be Honor Guards at his funeral service. Mr. Salas requested permission from the Governing Body to place the painting of Mr. Encinias at Safeway Parking Lot and wanted to recognize artist Peter Garduno for devoting many hours of work on the painting.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for consensus from the Governing Body regarding the painting being placed at Safeway Parking Lot. The Governing Body agreed on the placement of the painting of Mr. Encinias at Safeway Parking Lot.

Justin Valdez spoke of several needs of building a new skate park which would benefit the community and its youth, keeping them occupied and teaching them independence. Mr. Valdez felt that there was not enough attention or funding given to skateboarding, noting that there were no legitimate locations to skate and having to go out of town or use public property that would sometimes result in unintentional property damage, which would present the skateboarder as an outcast or delinquent. Mr. Valdez expressed that skateboarding helped people mentally and to enjoy the sport with others and is a free spirit atmosphere that needs to thrive in order to help young athletes to reach their potential.

Antonio Torres expressed his thoughts on the need of a skateboard park and other forms of recreation for the youth of the City and asked the Governing Body why the City did not have a legitimate skateboarding park.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón advised that the City was in support of building a skateboard park and that at the present time the City was looking for grant funding although drawbacks that had occurred at the State level had affected municipalities. Mayor Gurulé-Girón stated that the City was moving forward on how they would be able to accommodate and assist skateboarders.

Brian Marquez advised he was the Founder and President of a local 501-C3 Non-Profit organization in Las Vegas, New Mexico with a goal of obtaining a quality

skateboard park for the City and County areas and advised they recently received a proposal from a skateboard company, ARC and was requesting from the public and the Governing Body a specific location for a skateboard park in order to complete a grant application. Mr. Marquez also invited everyone to attend an artist reception fundraising art show at the Las Vegas Arts Council on April 20, 2017 at 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and advised that all proceeds would go towards the skateboard park.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón wanted to assure Mr. Marquez that she and City Manager Trujillo had looked at many locations for the skate park and had considered two possible locations although advised she did not want to make that commitment until all requirements had been met and gave City Manager Trujillo the directive to work with Mr. Marquez regarding the skate park.

City Manager Trujillo advised that Annette Velarde was currently working with Mr. Marquez regarding the skate park.

Debra Gage discussed her concerns of officer safety which she thought was a huge issue for the community and the Police Department due to being short staffed. Mrs. Gage spoke of the sacrifice that law enforcement and their families give when their loved ones while out serving the community and putting their lives on the line. Mrs. Gage asked how much money the City was actually saving by not hiring officers that could be saving multiple lives and stated that public safety should be a priority and not a cut, she asked the Governing Body to please consider the money that the City was saving and added that it could be costing law enforcement families their worlds.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón commended Mrs. Gage for being there and assured that the priority of the City of Las Vegas had always been the public health and safety of the community and stated that as Mayor, this administration had continued to support the initiatives of the Police Department. Mayor Gurulé-Girón informed that the City had taken a 5% drawback in each department, excluding the Police Department and they have maintained their budget, increasing the capacity of officers to 34 which was substantial for the population of 12,000.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón stated for the record that the department had received 8 vehicles and that 4 went to the Police Department hierarchy and she had

discussed with Police Chief Montano that she disagreed and thought that all 8 vehicles should have gone to the first responding officers and added that she strongly supported Mrs. Gage in every statement that she had made. Mayor Gurulé-Girón stated that this administration would continue to do what they could do at their level to ensure that our police officers receive the best vehicles to perform their duties and gave Chief Montano the directive to ensure his hierarchy continue to support the patrolmen out in the street, in order to eliminate dangerous situations as experienced in the past. Mayor Gurulé-Girón along with the Council publicly assured Mrs. Gage that they would continue to support public safety.

Caleb Marquez Vice President of the Fraternal Order of Police spoke as the Union representative for the Police Department regarding importance of safety for Police and for the community. Mr. Marquez suggested to the Governing Body to get involved within the Police Department to address questions and concerns and asked if they would reconsider filling the positions that were greatly needed.

Arsenio Garcia spoke of his hardships that he had faced in the past and informed that he had volunteered at the Samaritan House which was a positive experience and felt what had happened to the Samaritan House was not fair. Mr. Garcia informed that the Samaritan House allowed high school students to volunteer which would benefit them when applying for scholarships. Mr. Garcia expressed that he was a proud Hispanic, a culture that “takes care of their own” and knew that the Governing Body would do the right thing in helping the Samaritan House.

Angela Sanchez a retired teacher and chairman of the Veterans through the Elk’s expressed her thoughts on the closing of the Samaritan House and stated that there were so many people, veterans included that needed help. Ms. Sanchez pleaded with the Governing Body to help the Samaritan House.

Wid Slick spoke regarding the increased Lodger’s Tax and informed that within 3 years ending June 30, 2016 when the City partnered with Special Events and New Mexico State Tourism to run a marketing campaign there was an increase on average Lodger’s Tax collection of \$2,200.00 and currently now partnering up with Cisneros Design, had averaged an increase of \$2,200.00 per month. Mr. Slick stated both plans have been successful and had a plan which included:

1. To run both merchandise campaigns and double Lodger's Tax collections.
2. Improve the Special Events City Tourism campaign by obtaining New Mexico tourism grants.
3. Letting the Special Events organizers have the marketing expertise of Cisneros Design. (Improve results on the Cisneros campaign by allocating more money to ad placements.)

Lalo Sanchez stated that he appreciated the repairs of the drain grates located on South Pacific Street although had public safety concerns regarding drain grates on South Pacific Street that had not been repaired. Mr. Sanchez had concerns regarding the police cars not being numbered, public input time, phone calls not being answered and issues with Department Heads being out on the field.

### **PRESENTATIONS**

City Manager Trujillo advised that Charles Strickfaden with the Fort Union National Monument would be giving a presentation.

Charles Strickfaden Superintendent with Fort Union National Monument gave a detailed update presentation on educational outreach on community stories, participation in Las Vegas community events and renovation of the park visitor center.

Councilor Casey advised Mr. Strickfaden that one activity was missing from his presentation that the Fort Union participated in every year which was a Fort Union staff member setting up a table at the Annual Literacy Fair held by the Literacy Council in which she was a member. Councilor Casey thanked him for their participation and stated that it added to the success of the Literacy Fair.

### **CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**

City Manager Trujillo reported that the City was faced with many challenges of homelessness, no shelters or safe havens for battered women or victims of domestic violence and advised that it was the City's commitment for our residents to do our due diligence in making sure to help them find a home.

City Manager Trujillo also stated that the Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels Program was also struggling with the demand surpassing the supply, being short on funds and informed that Meals on Wheels were also delivered to Pecos and to the Villanueva area as well. City Manager Trujillo advised that he and Senior Center staff had met with the Mayor of Pecos to inform of the issues at hand regarding the Senior Centers and have met with County Manager Vidal Martinez to discuss their budget and possibly for the County to give more to the operations of the center. City Manager Trujillo stated that Senior staff was doing their due diligence in looking at budgets in order to provide service to our Senior citizens and informed that they anticipate being in the negative next year of possibly, \$180,000.00, due to the State cuts from these agencies, throughout the state.

Community Services Director Pamela Marrujo advised that Senior Center Manager Wanda Salazar would present a plan regarding the concerns of providing our Senior Citizens with valuable services and the future funding of the center. Community Services Director Marrujo also advised they were looking for the help of the County and Pecos to aid in bridging the gap regarding next year's deficit of \$180,00.00 and informed that there would be cuts although would stay within the criteria of the Meals on Wheels Program for homebound citizens.

Senior Citizens Center Manager Wanda presented the Senior Center Budget for FY 2016/2017 & FY 2017/2018 as follows:

**FY 16/17-This Year**

- Area Agency on Aging (AAA) awarded budget for FY 16-17 based on prior year services FY 15/16
- Prior Year Services FY 15/16 were low because of the renovation at the Senior Center. The Senior Center was housed at the Recreation Center for 7 months
- FY 16/17 Goals have been executed
- AAA cut to Senior Center program in October 5.5% \$19,038
- Meetings have been held with the following agencies to inform them of funding issues and requesting additional funds. The intent is to Bridge Gap to balance the budget for FY 16/17.

-Village of Pecos-Mayor Roybal and Staff- current funding is \$22,000

-San Miguel County-Vidal Martinez, County Manager- current funding is \$30,000

-Area Agency on Aging (AAA)-Tim Armor, Executive Director, Marcia Medina Regional Director and Staff- current funding is \$589,582

-Senator Pete Campos

-Radio discussions

- The Deficit projected for FY 16/17 is \$50,000 though was initially discussed to be more.

**FY 17/18-Next Year**

- Additional cut of 5% by AAA-budgeted funding requested is \$562,691

- Reduction of services
- Request Village of Pecos to up their contribution from \$22,000 to \$44,000
- Present to County Commission Meeting on May 10, 2017 also to up their contribution from \$30,000 to meet the City of Las Vegas' contribution of \$75,000.

**Additional Information**

- Serving a population that is Aging-23% of population in SM County is 60 and older
- Senior Center needs to make cuts in order to abide by the budget.
- Calls from the community are going to begin when cuts start.
- Assessment Process for Home Deliveries (Must meet certain criteria)
  - Referral comes in to center from outside source (APS, AAA, Family, Care Giver)
  - Assessment Coordinator assesses Senior with a 5 page Assessment
  - Assessment Coordinator must complete a Narrative on all HD Seniors as part of Assessment Process
  - Completed Assessment is sent to AAA for review and approval
  - If Senior is approved by AAA, then services will begin
- Documented Waiting List is 27 seniors
- Waiting List began January-February 2017
- Units (meals served or transport made) Served in F Y16/17 are projected to be 105,000
- Units (meals served or transport made) Budgeted to serve for FY 17/18 are 84,428

Councilor Howell asked if reaching out to our local businesses for help had been considered as part of the plan to aid the Senior Center and stated the importance of the help of the community in servicing this need.

Community Services Director Marrujo informed that at this point and time they had not formally asked businesses for help although have received donations.

Councilor Casey asked what other cuts would have to be made.

Senior Center Manager Salazar advised some salary cuts had been made in the San Miguel area, a cut to raw food and kitchen supplies as well. Ms. Marrujo advised that transportation regarding leisure trips would also be included in those cuts.

Councilor Casey advised that due to there being so many hungry people in the City her main concern was provided meals being cut down and stated that the Senior Center played a vital role in feeding the hungry.

City Manager Trujillo informed that they had met with Mayor Roybal of Pecos regarding reducing operations at the Pecos Senior Center and asked him to contribute more to the budget and stated that Senator Campos had been

informed of the issues regarding the Senior Center as well. City Manager Trujillo advised that they would continue working on innovative ways of helping the Senior Center without hurting the senior citizens.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

Finance Director Ann Marie Gallegos presented the finance report ending for the month of March 31, 2017, with revenue coming in at 77% and reported expenditures at 67% and advised that there was a loss in revenue regarding the GRT for April, receiving \$901,000 at this time, last year and reported that only \$681,000 was received this year due to lack of construction projects which drastically affects GRT. Finance Director Gallegos advised that there would be a couple of projects starting in July that would help the GRT and would continue to monitor the budget and diversify some expenses from the General Fund and would bring the budget back to Council in May for recommendations.

Finance Director Gallegos informed that Recreation Department revenues were at 57% which were anticipated due to the start of hiring the needed Recreation Center staff and advised that the total expenditures were at 81%.

Finance Director Gallegos reported Enterprise Funds revenue came in at 73% and expenditures were at 63%.

Councilor Howell asked for the status of the amount in the General Fund and asked if there was any danger regarding not being able to maintain funding.

Finance Director Gallegos advised that it was being maintained, and informed that they were at the 1/12<sup>th</sup> cash requirement, close to \$950,000.00, enough to operate and continue to maintain and believed they were not in danger at the present time.

Councilor Howell asked a question regarding the Hold Harmless Tax.

Finance Director Gallegos informed that there were challenges regarding the Hold Harmless Tax which would double from \$85,000 to \$170,000.00 next year and would continue to monitor and diversify from other funds.

Councilor Howell asked if fees for use of the Recreation Center would increase.

City Manager Trujillo advised that fees would not increase at this time and advised that he wanted to inform that the Recreation Center had experienced some water damage to the flooring and repairs needed to take place therefore the opening of May 5<sup>th</sup> would not take place and advised that May 19<sup>th</sup> would be the date of the opening for the Recreation Center.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Approval of 2017 Audit Contract.
2. Approval of Resolution #17-07, supporting New Mexico Department of Transportation Municipal Arterial Program (MAP)-2018 application.

Resolution 17-07 was presented as follows:

**CITY OF LAS VEGAS, NM  
RESOLUTION NO. 17-07**

A resolution Supporting Application of New Mexico Department of Transportation Municipal Arterial Program (MAP)-2018 for the Project Development, Design and Construction of Surface and Drainage Improvements along Mountain View Drive – 7<sup>th</sup> Street (NM 518) to Grand Avenue (US Hwy 85).

**WHEREAS**, the estimated cost of the above described project is one million, one hundred and forty thousand dollars (\$1,140,000.00); and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Las Vegas governing body has declared improvements to said streets a necessity for the good and well being of citizens of Las Vegas, New Mexico and supports the Municipal Arterial Program (MAP)-2018 Application for these funds to accomplish the work; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Las Vegas will agree to work in accordance with the funding requirements of the Municipal Arterial Funding Program (MAP), provided it be successful in receiving the funding necessary for these improvements.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, it hereby is resolved by the governing body of the City of Las Vegas that the Municipal Arterial Program Application for the above funding be submitted to the New Department of Transportation.

**PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED THIS \_\_\_\_\_ DAY OF APRIL 2017.**

**CITY OF LAS VEGAS:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk

**3. Approval of Water Treatment Plant Sodium Hypochlorite disinfection system.**

Councilor Casey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as read in to the record. Councilor Howell seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes	Barbara A. Casey	Yes
David L. Romero	Yes	Vincent Howell	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

**COUNCILORS' REPORTS**

Councilor Ulibarri, Jr. wanted to thank Code Enforcement and Streets Department for the hard work they had been doing to improve our community.

City Manager Trujillo reported that Code Enforcement had been moved from the Police Department back to the Community Development Department in order to be closer to building inspections, licensing, codes/regulations and looking into addressing boarding home issues with the Director as well.

Councilor Howell wanted to utilize the amendment on the City Attorney's contract regarding to develop a consensus with the Governing Body to initiate a stay of execution of the evacuation regarding the Samaritan House until it was resolved.

City Attorney Corinna Laszlo-Henry wanted to clarify the information regarding the Samaritan House and stated that the City was notified by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) stating that if the Samaritan House' continued occupancy,

they would be in violation and that they needed to be removed from the premises.

City Attorney Laszlo-Henry informed that they tried to negotiate with HUD and that they explained to HUD, the importance of the services that Samaritan House provided and advised that a letter was sent to HUD on April 7<sup>th</sup> and she publicly stated that the City was honoring a 30-day notice which was contractual and added that they were not dealing with a traditional tenancy situation eviction. City Attorney Laszlo-Henry advised that this was not an issue of ownership of the Public Housing although stated that she understood that HUD communicated the offer of temporary use of housing for office space. City Attorney Laszlo stated that if HUD would recognize the factual instead of the legal, it would be a way to consider the situation.

City Manager Trujillo informed that the City did ask HUD for a 90 day extension and they were denied by HUD.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked what the implications would be to the City if they did not comply with the 30 days.

City Manager Trujillo advised that he thought the City needed to abide by the orders from HUD and was concerned due to them being there since 2002.

Councilor Howell stated “he heard that HUD was upset because they were not servicing the public housing residents although they were serving the whole community and the people behind the building that we have on the same property, is public housing”.

City Attorney Laszlo-Henry stated that there was an exception in the HUD regulations that would allow for public housing space to be rented or donated to 501-C3 organizations specifically that serves public housing residents in the area of drug & substance abuse prevention and added that they do receive HUD funding as well. City Attorney Laszlo-Henry advised that this was the only narrow exception that existed for allowing those kinds of in-kind partnerships for the benefit of public housing residents and stated she would like to meet Samaritan House Executive Director Lyon to further discuss these issues.

City Manager Trujillo advised he would set up a meeting with Mr. Lyon and City Attorney Laszlo-Henry.

Councilor Howell stated that public safety was a concern in the community, and stated that the restrictions of funds was affecting the Police Department and questioned the letter received from Rick Lopez, Representative of DFA regarding the 5% departmental cuts.

City Manager Trujillo informed that he understood the letter to state that the cuts should not affect public safety.

Discussion took place in regards to further discussion on public safety.

Councilor Casey wanted to recognize Community Development Director Velarde for the hard work with the Economic Development Leadership Collaborative and was impressed with her continued work. Councilor Casey stated that she was pleased that Virginia Marrujo was joining the Community Development Department and praised her on her work and thought that she and Annette would be a great team.

Councilor Casey stated that the replacement flooring at City Hall looked beautiful and when the flooding first occurred she received by text message regarding the leak occurring and she asked how bad the damage was and was told that it was not bad at all. Councilor Casey stated that all of a sudden it was a total disaster, damaging the hallway and seven offices as well and wondered of the total damage amount. Councilor Casey asked for details regarding the City's insurance and what they would pay and questioned if the job went out for bid or if the former contractor was called in.

Mayor Gurulé-Girón gave the directive to City Manager Trujillo to address that to Finance Director Gallegos, who is an expert in emergency procurement.

Finance Director Gallegos explained that the situation involved the water fountain leaking, starting Thursday night and the damage was discovered the following morning and stated that at the time the damage did not seem that bad and brought in maintenance to vacuum the water. Finance Director Gallegos advised that it had turned out to be a bigger project than anticipated, with water leaking

into the hallway and portions of the City Manager's and Finance office and informed that City Manager Trujillo was not in the office that day and she was placed in charge. Finance Director Gallegos advised that the damage got worse and notified Public Works Director Veronica Gentry so that they may both assess the issue and asked Public Works Director Gentry to contact the gentleman who had done the flooring, which was Gemini Flooring and advised they minimized the damage to the flooring. Finance Director Gallegos informed that at that time she made the decision to call it an emergency procurement which was allowed under the procurement code.

Councilor Casey asked if there was a filed claim with our insurance and how much they would pay.

Finance Director Gallegos advised that they had not submitted the cost yet but did submit the claim and informed that the damage cost was approximately \$90,000.00 and expected \$50,000.00-\$60,000.00 from the insurance company, she stated that she authorized repairs in the bigger finance office and were now intending to finish the area of the City Attorney's offices in making it all consistent. Finance Director Gallegos apologized to Councilor Casey regarding her first initial assessment of the damage being minimal.

City Manager Trujillo wanted to clarify that the contractor had not identified any asbestos as they had received a letter from the Environmental Department stating that there was a complaint regarding that asbestos had been identified during the floor repair project.

Councilor Casey stated that the Municipal League Conference was quickly approaching and asked how much mileage and per-diem would cost for Mayor, City Manager, Councilors, City Clerk and Police Chief to attend. Councilor Casey asked if it would be cost effective and worth the cost and expense considering the City was short on funds. Councilor Casey mentioned the letter from DFA had stated that non-profits should not receive funding and that safety would not be affected by the hiring freeze although asked why the vacant positions at the Police Department were not being filled. Councilor Casey suggested that all the money used to fund the Municipal League Conference, that would not benefit the community in anyway, should be used to fill the two vacant positions at the Police Department.

Finance Director Gallegos informed that the numbers for FY 2017/2018 were preliminary; she advised that it would be up to Directors and added that they had the option to decide whether they want to travel and attend conferences and stated that most of the departments had minimized their travels.

Councilor Casey asked if the City had a location that the Samaritan House could utilize in order to hand out food.

City Manager Trujillo advised that the office space at Rodriguez Park would soon be available and informed the City did not have any other buildings although maybe an option would be to build on city property.

Discussion took place regarding the needs of the Samaritan House in order to continue to operate.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no need for Executive Session at this time.

**ADJOURN**

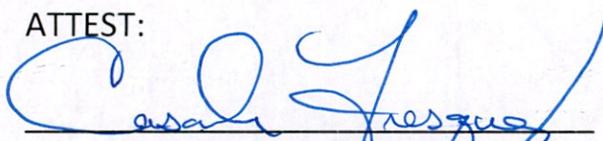
Councilor Casey made a motion to adjourn. Councilor Romero seconded the motion. Mayor Gurulé-Girón asked for roll call. Roll Call Vote was taken and reflected the following:

Vincent Howell	Yes	David L. Romero	Yes
Barbara A. Casey	Yes	David A. Ulibarri, Jr.	Yes

City Clerk Fresquez re-read the motion and advised that the motion carried.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Tonita Gurulé-Girón

ATTEST:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Casandra Fresquez, City Clerk